

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01209 201159Z

50 S
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

MC-02 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /063 W
----- 111230

R 201017Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2592
INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1209

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, LA
SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LAOS

1. I INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER TODAY OF THE CONTINUING PRESSURE OF THE PATHET LAO ON THE U.S. MISSION TO GET INFORMATION ON THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. I SAID THAT I HAD BRIEFED THE VIENTIANE LEADERSHIP ON A \$30 MILLION PROGRAM BUT WAS CONCERNED OVER THE LIKELIHOOD THAT IF DETAILS OF OUR PROGRAM WERE MADE KNOWN TO THE PATHET LAO, THEY MIGHT TAKE STEPS TO DIVERT OR DRY UP OUR SUPPORT OF FAR. FONMIN PHOUMLI HAD ALLUDED TO OUR GIVING THIS AID TO THE PGNU WHICH WOULD HANDLE ITS DISTRIBUTION. I COULD ENVISAGE AN EFFORT BEING MADE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO DIVERT MILITARY POL TO PUBLIC WORKS OR SOME OTHER WORTHY CAUSE. UNDER OUR LAWS THIS WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE PL MERELY WANT AID TO APPEAR AS AN OFFSET IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. I ANSWERED THAT THIS WOULD BE UNOBJECTIONABLE IF SIMILAR SUPPORT BEING GIVEN THE PL BY OTHER COUNTRIES WERE LISTED. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN ASSURED ME CATEGORICALLY THAT MILITARY SUPPLIES GRANTED TO FAR WOULD BE RECEIVED BY FAR AND THAT NO DIVERSION OF COMMODITIES TO OTHER MINISTRIES OR ATTEMPTS TO BLOCK THIS SUPPORT WOULD

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BE TOLERATED BY HIM. I SHOULD HAVE NO WORRIES ON THIS SCORE

BUT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I WORKED OUT SOMETHING WITH THE
VIENTIANE SIDE WHICH COULD APPEAR IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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